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evidence is interpreted as demonstrating the extension of coral reefs throughout the shallow sea covering Central Europe in late Jurassic time, which was a period of oscillation. The fine calcareous sediment interbedded with lithographic stone, for which the district about Solnhofen is famous, represents the infilling of a lagoon, outside of which the coral limestone carries a totally distinct fauna. The peculiar mixture of land and marine organisms, the occurrence of large trunks of trees and seaweed with roots, the interbedding of apparently wind-blown material, and the tracks of undoubted air-breathing animals, are among the facts which indicate that the bottom of the lagoon was barely below tidewater, and probably was even exposed at times. Creatures straying into the lagoon and becoming entrapped there, or volant forms like insects, Pterodactyls and Archæopteryx, which met their death in the paste-like, rapidly accumulating sediment, were covered before any injury had been done to their bodies through decomposition or other causes, the most delicate structures being perfectly preserved. Although the variety of forms is large, yet Solnhofen fossils are surprisingly rare as compared with the majority of horizons, and a great many species are known only by one or two individuals; several important groups are not represented at all, and on the other hand, a large percentage of species is restricted to this locality. There appears to be no room for doubting that the assemblage is an accidental one, and this vast cemetery gives us a unique but by no means typical reconstruction of the late Jurassic fauna.

Karl Alfred von Zittel.—Of the numerous biographical sketches which have appeared of the great master of palæontology this recent memorial of Pompeckj, pupil, associate and intimate friend of the late Geheimrath, is the most complete, and most satisfactory. This is not a eulogy of von Zittel, but a plain and sufficient account of his career, with his achievements mentioned in such a way that they speak for themselves, and with the light so distributed upon his personal traits, his ambition, energy, concentration — and above all upon his aptitude as a teacher, helpful, inspiring and commanding of respect,—that his character is revealed naturally before us without addition or subtraction, as must be acknowledged by anyone who had the good fortune to know him well. Dr. Pompeckj has told us

¹ Pompeckj, J. F. Karl Alfred von Zittel: Ein Nachruf. *Palæontographica*, vol. L., 1904.

in measured and dignified language much that is good to know and to remember in connection with the life-work of one of the torch-bearers of science, but there is one respect in which we would like to have been told more. Zittel as a teacher, text-book writer, ardent collector and museum administrator, Zittel as an investigator thirsting for scientific discovery — in all these capacities he is presented to us ; but enough has not yet been said in regard to him as a philosopher, as a theorizer upon the vast store of empirical knowledge of which he was the possessor. He was an excellent systematist, and the faculty of coördination was developed in him to a remarkable degree. Though he discovered no new laws of natural history, yet he had faith in the discovery of others, and he believed in certain principles and methods of drawing philosophical conclusions, as sincerely as he disbelieved in certain others, nor did he always insist upon his own personal judgment, often deferring to the opinions of colleagues in whom he had confidence. On such matters as these we should eagerly welcome more light.

BOTANY.

Maple Sap Flow.¹—This paper, by Messrs. Jones, Edson, and Moore, and edited by J. H. Hills, Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station of Vermont, is unusual in two ways. It is a very good paper, giving the carefully considered results of experiment and observation sufficiently extended to justify general conclusions. In the second place the paper is unusual for it is the first on this subject since Clark's papers in 1873 and 1874.² As I have said elsewhere,³ it is surprising that American botanists at the Agricultural Experiment Stations in the states where maple-syrup and maple-sugar making is an important industry have not carefully studied the phenomena, at least from an economic standpoint. The present paper is written both from the economic and from the physiological standpoint, and the plant physiologist will find in it data which he

¹ *Bulletin Vermont Agric. Exp. Station*, No. 103, Dec., 1903.

² *Report Mass. Agric. Coll.*, 1873-4 ; *Report Mass. State Bd. Agric.*, No. 22, 1874.

³ *Text Book of Plant Physiology*, 1903.